

Brig Judy – ProD 2017 TRC

This was a good overview and a heartfelt reminder of the scope and magnitude of the colonial annexation of all things indigenous.

I enjoyed Marie Wilson's comments and over-arching perspective in the opening comments.

But I was probably most touched by the last, closing video from Ottawa.

The voices and eloquent statements from the elders was powerful.

I learned that we can never be reminded enough of what was lost by the people we are seeking to reach.

I learned that I can easily be manipulated into thinking "I've heard all of this before."

I was reminded that folks are still walking this out.

The process is hardly a one-step decision "to get over it."

I was cognizant of the fact that Jesus Christ was left out of this entire dialogue.

That we do have a message worth sharing.

But it shouldn't entitle me to feel superior...for I am only the messenger.

I think that NAIM has been good at "creating space" on the field to allow friends and acquaintances time to discover the truth of His message.

But I think that our attempts at integrating "space" into our ethos or culture have been clunky and forced.

I feel like NAIM has often taken the emotional perspective or approach of being bad or inept at our efforts...recent or historical.

That somehow, magically or intuitively our First Nations staff know far better than we do about all matters to do with all fields and every situation where NAIM ministers.

We need to somehow "keep it simple" and learn how to create space within NAIM and to allow folks to disagree if necessary.

After all, we are all human and flawed.

It feels like everyone is with the organization to try and help indigenous people come to know Jesus Christ (and if this isn't the case than why are they with NAIM?).

We need to up our tolerance level beyond just the colour of our skin or the nature of our peculiar ministry bent to work together to see the end result of His Kingdom being enlarged.

I dunno, just some thoughts generated while on sabbatical on a rainy Thursday afternoon.

But this was a good exercise.

Whoever scoped out this material and regulated it to this format or "to-do's" is to be commended.

This was time well spent.

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